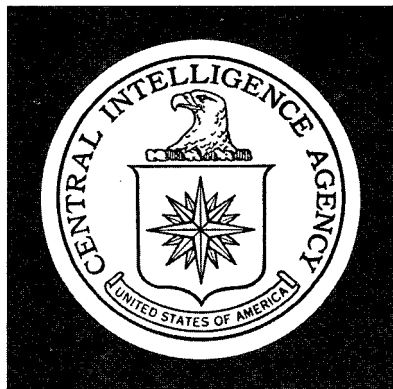


**Top Secret**

(67)



25X1

DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

## MEMORANDUM

### *The Situation in Vietnam*

25X1

**Top Secret**

112

15 February 1967

**Page Denied**

25X1

Information as of 1600  
15 February 1967

25X1

HIGHLIGHTS

Grain imports by sea into North Vietnam in the first three months of this year will exceed the total grain seaborne imports into the DRV in 1966.

25X1

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
South Koreans report 243 Communist soldiers killed in heavy fighting north of Quang Ngai city (Paras. 1-2). Viet Cong guerrillas attacked two US mine-sweepers on the Long Tau River south of Saigon; a third minesweeper was sunk by a mine seven miles downstream (Paras. 3-4). A total of 70 rounds of mortar were directed at US positions west of Pleiku (Para. 5). Three helicopters were destroyed and five others damaged at the Nha Trang Airfield (Para. 6). A Viet Cong base camp was discovered in northern Tay Ninh Province (Para. 7). South Vietnamese Army forces report 204 Viet Cong killed in Chuong Thien Province (Para. 8). Dissension between Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops noted in documents captured in Binh Duong Province (Paras. 9-11). Weekly review of South Vietnam battle statistics (Para. 12).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

25X1

25X1

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

VI. Other Major Aspects: Grain imports by sea into the DRV in the first three months of 1967 will be slightly more than the total grain seaborne deliveries in 1966 (Paras. 1-2).

ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics  
1963 through week of 5-11 Feb 1967  
--Weapons and Personnel Losses  
--Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

15 February 1967



I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. South Korean forces have reported heavy fighting in the central lowlands of Quang Ngai Province about eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai city. A North Vietnamese unit identified as the 1st Battalion of the 21st North Vietnamese Army Regiment, reinforced by another battalion-sized unit, staged the attack against the South Korean positions. The assault was one of the largest by the Communists in recent months.

2. Reinforced and supported by artillery and US tactical air strikes, the South Korean troops counter-attacked, forcing the Communists to withdraw, at least temporarily. Preliminary casualty reports show 243 enemy soldiers killed and many weapons captured. South Korean losses now stand at 18 killed and 33 wounded.

3. Shortly before dawn on 15 February, Viet Cong guerrillas fired upon two US minesweepers in the Long Tau River--the main shipping channel between Saigon and the sea. The two vessels were conducting a sweep of the channel when they were struck by 57-mm. recoilless rifle fire from both shores. One of the two craft, which had begun to sink, was run aground in an effort to keep the channel open for shipping.

4. Later, seven miles downstream, a third US minesweeper struck an enemy mine and sank. American casualties on the three boats totaled five killed, eight wounded, and one missing. US aircraft and South Vietnamese Army troops swept the shores; although a bunker and some ammunition were discovered, no enemy soldiers were sighted. The channel remains open to shipping.

5. Early on 14 February, the Viet Cong fired an estimated 70 rounds of 82-mm. mortar fire into a position of the US 4th Infantry Division about 25 miles west of Pleiku. There was sporadic contact with the enemy force throughout the day, resulting in a total of eight Americans killed, 24 wounded, and two missing. Initial enemy losses were reported as 15 killed. The US units are part of the border-surveillance Operation SAM HOUSTON which began in Pleiku Province on 31 December.

15 February 1967

I-1

I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. South Korean forces have reported heavy fighting in the central lowlands of Quang Ngai Province about eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai city. A North Vietnamese unit identified as the 1st Battalion of the 21st North Vietnamese Army Regiment, reinforced by another battalion-sized unit, staged the attack against the South Korean positions. The assault was one of the largest by the Communists in recent months.

2. Reinforced and supported by artillery and US tactical air strikes, the South Korean troops counter-attacked, forcing the Communists to withdraw, at least temporarily. Preliminary casualty reports show 243 enemy soldiers killed and many weapons captured. South Korean losses now stand at 18 killed and 33 wounded.

3. Shortly before dawn on 15 February, Viet Cong guerrillas fired upon two US minesweepers in the Long Tau River--the main shipping channel between Saigon and the sea. The two vessels were conducting a sweep of the channel when they were struck by 57-mm. recoilless rifle fire from both shores. One of the two craft, which had begun to sink, was run aground in an effort to keep the channel open for shipping.

4. Later, seven miles downstream, a third US minesweeper struck an enemy mine and sank. American casualties on the three boats totaled five killed, eight wounded, and one missing. US aircraft and South Vietnamese Army troops swept the shores; although a bunker and some ammunition were discovered, no enemy soldiers were sighted. The channel remains open to shipping.

5. Early on 14 February, the Viet Cong fired an estimated 70 rounds of 82-mm. mortar fire into a position of the US 4th Infantry Division about 25 miles west of Pleiku. There was sporadic contact with the enemy force throughout the day, resulting in a total of eight Americans killed, 24 wounded, and two missing. Initial enemy losses were reported as 15 killed. The US units are part of the border-surveillance Operation SAM HOUSTON which began in Pleiku Province on 31 December.

15 February 1967

I-1

6. Approximately 12 Viet Cong guerrillas infiltrated the US Army airfield at Nha Trang in coastal Khanh Hoa Province early on 15 February. Under cover of darkness, the guerrillas placed explosive charges in the area of parked aircraft and withdrew from the base. Three helicopters and one vehicle were destroyed and five other helicopters were damaged. There were no American casualties reported. This attack was initially reported, erroneously, as mortar fire.

7. US forces of Operation GADSDEN currently sweeping the western portion of the Communist War Zone "C" in northern Tay Ninh Province, discovered an enemy base camp about 20 miles north of Tay Ninh city. The base camp and approximately 45 tons of rice were destroyed. Several weapons, a small quantity of ammunition, documents, and medical supplies were captured. A total of 124 Communists have been killed since this multibattalion sweep operation began on 1 February. American losses have been 26 killed and 96 wounded.

8. The four-battalion South Vietnamese Army search-and-destroy Operation DAN CHI 279, which began early on 14 February in the Mekong Delta province of Chuong Thien, has established sporadic contact with Viet Cong forces throughout its area of operation. In one encounter, nine US Army helicopters were shot down during an assault on a landing zone. Cumulative casualty totals show 24 South Vietnamese killed and 77 wounded in contrast with 204 Viet Cong killed and 15 Communist suspects detained. Two Americans have been reported killed and two others wounded so far in this operation.

#### Dissension Between VC and NVA Troops in Binh Duong

9. One of the first documented instances of dissension between Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops was mentioned in a November 1966 situation report prepared by the political section of the Viet Cong Thu Dau Mot (Binh Duong) provincial unit headquarters.

15 February 1967



10. The troops, assigned to integrated VC/NVA units in the province, retained regional ties and "did not really unite," according to the report. The document, captured during Operation CEDAR FALLS, does not give details on the scope of, or the reasons for, the friction, nor does it name the units involved. The item, mentioning only "some cases" of dissension, is listed merely as one of many motivational weaknesses observed during the reporting period.

11. No such combined VC/NVA units are known to be operating in Binh Duong, although it is possible that NVA troops have been used as replacements or as cadre in Viet Cong units in the province. In addition, the 165A Viet Cong Regiment in Military Region IV, which is adjacent to Binh Duong, and regiments subordinate to the 5th Viet Cong Division in the Phuoc Tuy - Long Khanh area have reportedly integrated NVA elements into their ranks. The 101st NVA Regiment has also been confirmed as subordinate to the 9th Viet Cong Division.

#### Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

12. The week of 5-11 February as compared with the week of 29 January - 4 February:

##### I. Viet Cong Incidents

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>At-tacks</u>	<u>Regimental size</u>	<u>Battalion size</u>
29 Jan - 4 Feb	28	0	0
5-11 Feb	42	0	0

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Company size</u>	<u>Sabotage</u>	<u>Propaganda</u>
29 Jan - 4 Feb	1	13	18
5-11 Feb	3	17	29

15 February 1967

I. Viet Cong Incidents (cont.)

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Antiaircraft</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
29 Jan - 4 Feb	466	836
5-11 Feb	383	962

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	<u>5-11 Feb</u>	<u>29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	<u>5-11 Feb</u>
Killed	1,309	1,085	170	193
Wounded	-----	-----	411	423
Missing/ Captured	<u>314</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>53</u>
TOTALS	1,623	1,085	607	669

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	<u>5-11 Feb</u>	<u>29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	<u>5-11 Feb</u>
Killed	112	107	38	9
Wounded	919	1,015	53	33
Missing/ Captured	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	1,042	1,122	91	42

III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	<u>5-11 Feb</u>	<u>29 Jan - 4 Feb</u>	<u>5-11 Feb</u>
Individual	245	Not	113	186
Crew-Served	<u>7</u>	Reported	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
TOTALS	252		114	196

15 February 1967

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

15 February 1967

II-1

**Page Denied**

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

15 February 1967

IV-V - 1

25X1

VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Grain imports by sea into the DRV in the first three months of 1967 will total about 56,000 tons, slightly more than total seaborne grain deliveries in 1966.

25X1

25X1

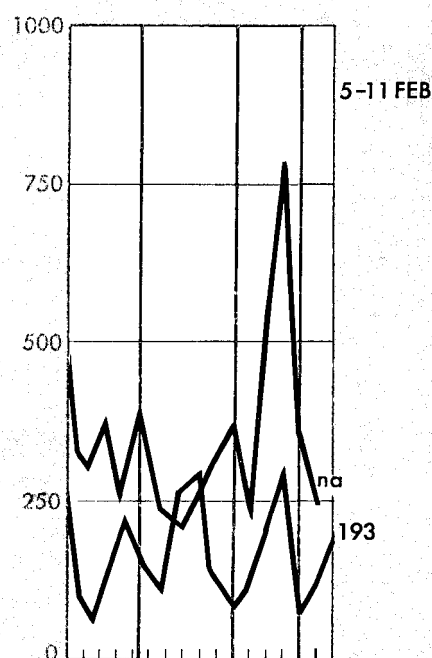
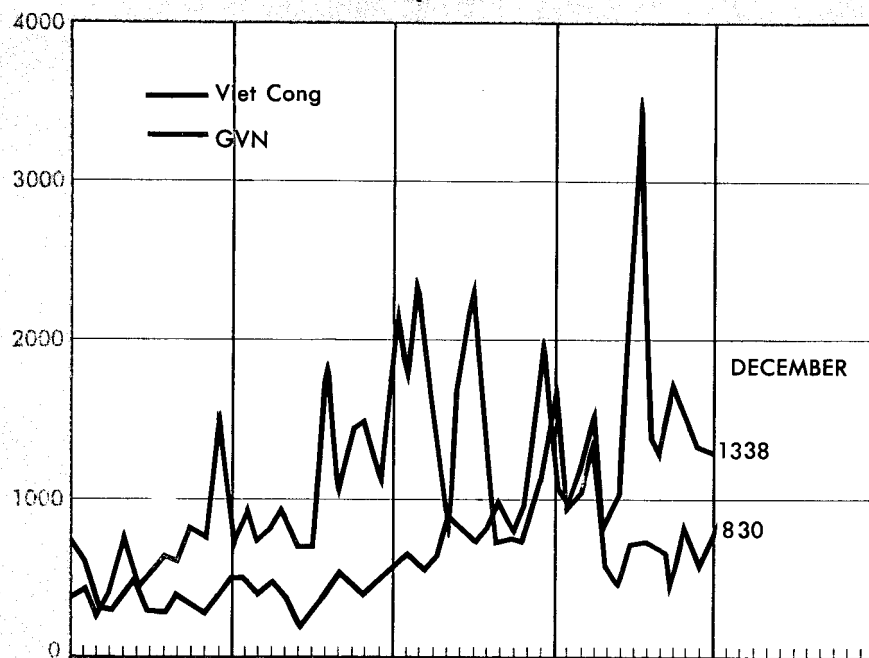
2. In 1966, the North Vietnamese harvest of rice--the country's staple--was probably the worst in recent history. Imports of food supplies should enable North Vietnam to avoid a major food crisis. Most reports of food difficulties thus far, have come from foreign observers in Hanoi, who apparently have found it difficult to distinguish distribution problems from shortages. There has been little information on the food situation in the rural areas where a national food shortage would be apparent.

15 February 1967

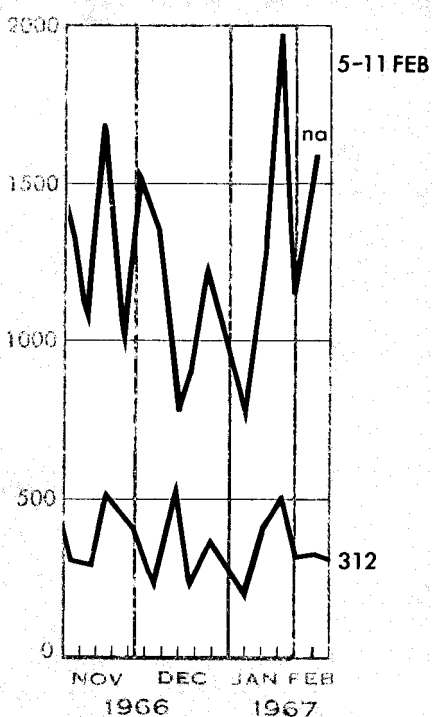
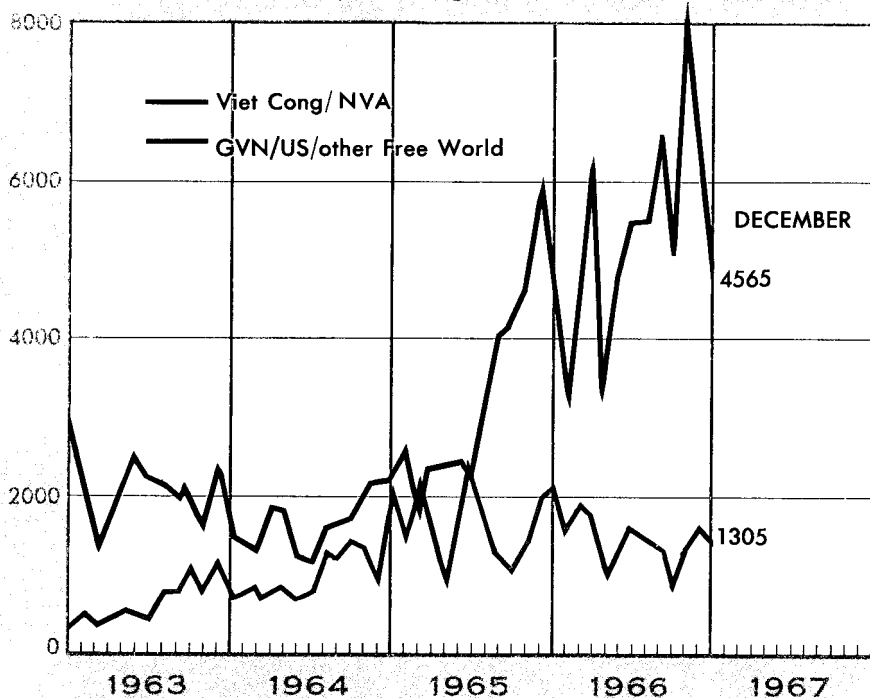
VI-1

25X1

## Weapons Losses



## Personnel Losses (Excluding Wounded)



US Casualties to Date: Killed 6,930 Wounded 40,151 Captured 136 Missing 355

25X1

